

Bridge has feature role

Film starring Denzel Washington to shoot on Duxbury location

By Susanna Sheehan
Clipper Reporter

The cast and crew of "The Equalizer 2" will be filming on the Powder Point Bridge on Oct. 23, shutting down the iconic 2,200 foot-long wooden bridge to traffic for that one day.

At its meeting on Monday, the Duxbury Board of Selectmen voted 2-0 to grant an event permit for representatives of Columbia Pictures to hold filming sessions in town from Friday, Oct. 20, through Tuesday, Oct. 24. This time period includes prep and removal time with the actual movie being shot at the bridge on Monday, Oct. 23, from 4 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Selectmen chairman Shawn Dahlen recused himself from the vote because he is part of the Duxbury Beach Reservation Inc. The cast and crew will be using part of the Reservation's beach parking lot area for its base camp for actors' trailers, work trucks and catering. The harbormaster's guard shack and sandy access to the beach will also be involved in the film shoot.

Mark Fitzgerald, location manager for the film, told selectmen that he chose the bridge because it was "gorgeous."

"It's a one-of-a-kind bridge," said Fitzgerald, "The director loves it." Fitzgerald said he showed the film's director, Antoine Fuqua, five bridges around the state and he chose the one in Duxbury.

The Powder Point Bridge was also depicted in the 2016 Disney movie, "The Finest Hours," which filmed in town in 2014.

"The Equalizer 2" is the sequel to the 2014 movie "The Equalizer," which starred Denzel Washington as an ex- CIA agent who comes out of retirement to help a young girl under the control of Russian gangsters. The new film's plot has not yet been disclosed, but the picture's release date is scheduled for next summer. It is also being shot in Boston and Lynn.

According to a filming information checklist provided to the town, five 5-to-10 ton trucks along with 100 cast and crew vehicles, 10 motor homes and as many as 35 other assorted vehicles will descend on Duxbury for the filming. It is expected there will be 10 cast members, 100 crew workers and between 50 to 75 extras.

The bridge is being used in a chase scene during a hurricane. There will be a line of cars stuck in traffic on the bridge to give the look that the town is being evacuated during a hurricane. During the scene, there will be simulated gunfire, which takes place when a character tries to stop a vehicle from crossing the bridge. To replicate a hurricane, the film crew plans to use a wave machine in the water and large fans to create wind, as well as rain towers and fog machines.

Fitzgerald assured selectmen that only the bridge will be shut down to traffic and not roads in the Powder Point area neighborhood. Emergency vehicles will still have access over the bridge if needed and residents in the area will be notified about the bridge shutdown as well as the simulated gunfire during filming. He said there will be police officers on each side of the bridge detouring anyone away from it. Duxbury Beach can also be reached by traveling on Gurnet Road from Marshfield.

"We will let (the neighbors) know, but it's really two shots and, in the film, the guys have suppressors on the guns so it's really nothing that would alarm any of the neighbors, but we will let them know about that," said Fitzgerald. "The police department will be aware, so if anyone calls, they will be able to let them know it's not actual, real gunfire."

Fitzgerald said he plan to use flyers to inform neighbors about specifics regarding the filming.

According to a document outlining the production crews' requests, town signs and trash cans will be removed from the area and signs used in the movie will be erected. Also, "various hurricane debris" will be strewn around and King Caesar Road will be blocked with a tree and debris on the day of filming only, although the tree can be positioned so cars can get around it. The town is requiring that all of its signs be reinstalled and all debris be removed once the filming is complete. The flag pole on the east end of the bridge will also get a bit part in the movie – it will fly a hurricane flag.